

in which he states that in October, 1908, he was retained by Senator Platt to defend an action brought by Mae Wood to blackmail Platt. On October 13 he received from Hummel a letter which is characterized in its terms of the Howe & Hummel firm's method of handling such litigation. It reads:

Thomas C. Platt, Esq.:
DEAR SIR: We have been retained by a young lady to institute legal proceedings against you in a cause of action, with the particulars of which you are thoroughly conversant. Unless before to-morrow (Wednesday), noon, we have a conference with you, or your attorney, regarding an amicable adjustment of our client's cause of action we shall immediately bring the matter to the attention of the court.

Howe & Hummel.

Nicoll says that he was instructed by Senator Platt to effect an amicable settlement, "provided unqualified proof could be obtained from the plaintiff herself of the falseness of her charges." So he wrote Hummel that Mae Wood had no claim, and had only been the recipient of kindness from Senator Platt, but that rather than have the matter aired in court the Senator would consent to a \$2,500 settlement. Hummel had previously sent word to Nicoll that he thought \$50,000 would be a fair figure, such a price Nicoll denounced as ridiculous, and he stated further that as his fees would probably in the event of any court proceedings amount to at least \$2,500, he was willing to save the Senator that sum by a settlement. If that was not acceptable Hummel and Wood could go to court and sue.

Further negotiations were held in the presence of Frank Platt resulted in the payment of \$10,000 to Hummel and the turning over of all documents, letters, telegrams, etc., including a written promise by Mae Wood that she would not sue Senator Platt again. Mr. Nicoll denies absolutely that he ever told O'Flaherty that he would have paid \$50,000 in settlement, but confirms the rest of O'Flaherty's story.

Frank H. Platt, son of the Senator, and a member of O'Brien, Boardman, Platt & Dunning, the Senator's present counsel, in his affidavit states that J. M. Nicoll told him that the only way to stop publication of Mae Wood's letters was to buy them from her. So he saw Hummel, who was Mae Wood's counsel, and with Nicoll effected the \$10,000 settlement. All the letters and pictures were subsequently turned up by Mr. Platt, but he still retains the release and some of the documents, which he is willing to file with the County Clerk if the Court so decides.

Justice Newburgh took the papers and reserved decision. This is a copy of the \$10,000 receipt:

City and County of New York, ss:

Mae C. Wood, being duly sworn, says: I am over the age of twenty years and am the same person who this day made and signed, executed and delivered to Thomas C. Platt of the city of New York a general release, in consideration of the sum of ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars, which I have actually received by me. I have fully and carefully read the said release and know the contents and purport thereof and fully realize by the execution of the same that I have no right, claim or demand of any kind or description against the said Thomas C. Platt.

I further say that I have not, nor have I ever had, any claim, demand or cause of action against the said Thomas C. Platt arising out of any matter or thing that I have or have not said or done, or any other matter or thing, and that I have never had any illicit relations with the said Thomas C. Platt nor have I ever so stated.

During the period of my acquaintance with the said Thomas C. Platt I received from him a large number of letters, writings and telegrams, all of which I have delivered to my counsel, Abraham H. Hummel of New York city, to be by him delivered to the said Thomas C. Platt, and that I have no other writings, letters or telegrams of any kind or description in my possession from the said Thomas C. Platt, nor under my control, nor are there any copies, photographic, carbon or otherwise, of any of the letters, writings or telegrams heretofore received by me from him other than those which I have given Mr. Hummel; nor have I ever disposed of any such copies or telegrams, or of any copy or copies of the same or of any of them.

I do further say that should I hereafter discover any other letters, writings or telegrams received by me from the said Thomas C. Platt, I will immediately deliver the same to my said counsel, to be at once delivered to the said Thomas C. Platt.

I do further say and agree, to and with the said Thomas C. Platt, that I will not, after institute, commence or maintain any action or proceeding against him, of any kind or description, that I will not write nor in any wise communicate with him, nor any member of his family, nor his relatives or acquaintances, and that I will not in any manner harass, annoy or molest the said Thomas C. Platt, nor any member of his family, relatives or acquaintances.

Sworn to before me this 14th day of October, 1908.
JOSEPH P. MOSS,
Notary Public.

Mr. Platt in his affidavit compares the allegations of Mae Wood in her affidavit filed in a suit brought by her in Nebraska in 1906. That suit was brought to recover \$10,000 damages from Senator Platt, the United States Express Company, William Leob, secretary of President Roosevelt, J. Martin Miller and others on a general release that they had signed and delivered to her on October 12, 1908, in New York city and rob her of the papers from which she expected to write the book to be entitled "The Love Letters of a Senator."

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NOW READY

(Sent free on request)

"The Old House, The New Boss and The Cheltenham Press"

being No. 2 in a Series of Booklets called EXPERIENCES

(No. 1, "The Advertising Manager" was issued in November.)

Let us put your Name on our List.
Write or Telephone for a representative. Better still—Call.

THE CHELTENHAM PRESS
150 Fifth Ave., N. Y. Cor. 20th St. Tel. 4600 Chelsea.

WANT A LINEUP ON HUGHES

BOOMERS SAY THEY'LL MAKE THE COUNTY COMMITTEE VOTE

Even if They Do Get Swamped in the Vote—Governor Continues to Say Nothing—A Boom Meeting to Be Held at the Republican Club in This City To-night.

Chairman Parsons of the Republican county committee and the leaders who are supporting him in his efforts to bring about an amicable agreement to shelve the Hughes resolution for another month have been making a strenuous effort to get the Republican Club in this City to-night. Chairman Parsons of the Republican county committee and the leaders who are supporting him in his efforts to bring about an amicable agreement to shelve the Hughes resolution for another month have been making a strenuous effort to get the Republican Club in this City to-night.

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THEATRE DEAD LIST OVER 200

VICTIMS OF BOYERTOWN FIRE PANIC MAY REACH 230.

Searchers, When Halted by Darkness, Had Taken Out 187 Bodies, and Forty More Were Being Sifted—Little Girl, Curiously Held Responsible for Disaster.

BOYERTOWN, Pa., Jan. 14.—Out of the ruins of the Rhodes Opera House 187 bodies, mostly of women and children, had been taken to-night when darkness fell.

Then, with at least forty more bodies in sight and perhaps more mixed in the debris, the search stopped for the night.

At least 200 persons perished by fire, by trampling and by suffocation in the awful tragedy of last night. The list may reach 230.

The cause has been clearly determined. The curiosity of one child started the panic that sent all those fear-maddened persons into eternity. Four hundred and twenty-five men, women and children were in the audience, which had gathered for an entertainment by the St. John's Lutheran Sunday school. Mrs. H. E. Monroe, who was directing the amateurs, had combined a moving picture show with the exhibition.

Suddenly there was a sharp hiss from an ill-fitting valve of the gas tank of the picture machine. Women and men apprehensively turned in their seats and gazed at the sputtering machine in the rear. Convinced in the audience that the sound that it was heard behind the scenes. One little girl on the stage innocently lifted the muslin screen from the bottom to look into the auditorium. The wooden bar and weight at the bottom of the curtain brushed against two oil lamps and toppled them over. In a moment blazing oil spread about the stage and the orchestra pit, as the lamps rolled into the first row of the orchestra, setting the clothing of two children on fire. At the same time the flimsy curtain was ignited.

With a sheet of flame swinging at them from over the footlights, futile efforts to smother the fire were made by the actors and the stage hands, and the audience, from row to row, jumped to their feet. Then the curtain, burned from its fastenings, fell into the oil soaked orchestra pit. At this point the panic broke out in full force. The flames leaped over the first row of orchestra chairs, and the gowns of many women were ignited. There was a chorus of shrieks, the flames became brighter, and the panic was on.

Husbands forgot their wives, brothers their sisters and friends their lifelong comrades. In a moment there was utter confusion. The first comers began to see the stairs. Those behind began to edge back but were blocked by those behind. "Make way!" was the shout, but before a semblance of order could be got a cloud of flame and smoke sped over the heads and shoulders of the throng. A dozen dead and twice that number dying were left in the wake of that first burst of fire.

It was then that the tragedy began to unfold. Men fought their way through the crowd. Women fought their way through the crowd. Men fought their way through the crowd. Women fought their way through the crowd. Men fought their way through the crowd. Women fought their way through the crowd.

The Hughes boomers have been hoping that he would give some public indication that their efforts had his approval. Mr. Brackett went to Albany yesterday to see the Governor, but from all that could be learned from Mr. Brackett after his interview with Mr. Hughes the Governor maintained his previous attitude.

"I am not authorized to say anything for the Governor," said Mr. Brackett, "but the Hughes resolution is a matter of the Republican county committee on Thursday night, and while I am not prepared to say what will be its fate I can say that the committee will be unanimous in its support of the Hughes resolution."

The Hughes State League opened its headquarters in Albany yesterday at the intersection of Broadway and Broadway street and Fifth avenue. The executive committee will meet on Saturday afternoon.

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—The securing of Ex-Senator Brackett as president of the new league is regarded by the anti-Hughes people to be the strongest move made so far. Senator Brackett's known ability as a fighter and his fearlessness are good assets for the league it is admitted. But in Albany there isn't so much anxiety shown over the Hughes boomers as might be expected. The list of committee doesn't strike terror to the breasts of the Republican leaders who are supporting Taft. The only names of known anti-Hughes writers, letters or telegrams heretofore received by me from him other than those which I have given Mr. Hummel; nor have I ever disposed of any such copies or telegrams, or of any copy or copies of the same or of any of them.

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OUT OF CUBA BY FEB. 1, 1909

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Message Sent to Congress With Cordial Praise for Taft and Magoon—Presidential Election in December—All in the Island Pleased at Programme.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—The President sent to-day to Congress the following message transmitting the report of Charles E. Magoon, Provisional Governor of the Island of Cuba:

"I enclose the report of Provisional Governor Magoon on the conditions in Cuba, together with the correspondence between Secretary Taft and myself on the subject. I cannot too heartily commend the active co-operation and the army in all its parts in connection with this Cuban matter."

"I am glad to be able to say that we can now definitely announce that one year hence, by or before February 1, 1909, we shall have turned over the island to the President and Congress to be elected next December by the people of Cuba. Prosperity, peace and happiness have attended the exercise of our government in Cuba. Our word to turn over the island to its own people will be scrupulously regarded and through their own President and Congress they will administer the government of the island a year hence."

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"My Dear Mr. Secretary:

"I approve the report of Gov. Magoon and your letter thereon, and they will be transmitted to Congress together with a copy of this letter. I direct that the installation of the President and Congress of Cuba to be elected next December and the turning over of the island to them take place not later than February 1, 1909. If it can be turned over earlier I shall be glad, under no circumstances and for no reason will the date be later than February 1, 1909."

Sincerely yours,

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

SATISFACTION IN HAVANA.

HAVANA, Jan. 14.—President Roosevelt's letter to Secretary of War Taft, directing the reestablishment of the Cuban republic on February 1, 1909, was made public at the palace this afternoon, too late for the evening newspapers to comment on it. The news gained considerable currency, however, and it excited tremendous interest. It reached the Advisory Commission, which consists of members of all the parties at about 4 o'clock and created a favorable impression.

It will take a couple of days to ascertain the real effect of the information, but it is likely that the Cubans, particularly the political leaders, will be satisfied. A definite programme as such will present all the elements of the population, although foreign business interests will doubtless regard the American evacuation dubiously.

Members of the Provisional Government say it is possible to carry out President Roosevelt's wishes, but it will be necessary to curtail or omit the hundred day period between the popular election for President and the meeting of the electoral college. With a definite objective in view the administrators will be stimulated to rush their work, as they will feel that the end of a difficult and disagreeable duty is finally in sight.

To give effect to President Roosevelt's plans will involve a tremendous task, there being a vast amount of work undone. Mr. Roosevelt's reason for outlining a definite plan is known to be his wish to close the Cuban episode during his own administration. He therefore altered the plan outlined by Mr. Taft, in which he suggested the reestablishment of the republic in March or April, 1909. This plan, which is now discredited by Mr. Roosevelt's letter, naturally drew forth much comment, which was generally favorable to its passive acceptance. Some of the newspapers showed enthusiasm and confidence. The Liberals, who are ready for an immediate election, were generally well pleased with it.

The *Duchess* says it is now time for the Conservatives to speedily and vigorously organize. Gen. Menocal, who has been recently mentioned for the Presidency, says in an open letter that he is not a candidate, but intimates that he would accept if the nomination were offered to him.

PERTURBATIONS IN CUBA.

Students in Pharmacy Coming Here to Complain—Fugitive and Fugitive.

HAVANA, Jan. 14.—Señor de Cordoba, leader of the class of pharmacy students at the Havana University, and Rafael Conte, editor of the newspaper *Cuba*, are going to Washington to ask President Roosevelt to revoke Gov. Magoon's recent decree making the examinations in pharmacy free to any one. If Mr. Roosevelt declines, they threaten that they will appeal to Senator Tillman. There was a considerable demonstration by the students when the two delegates sailed to-day.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 cigarmakers are now striking. Only seven independent firms are working. Both sides remain firm.

Santiago merchants are protesting against the intention of the sanitary authorities to fumigate the business section of that city by the use of chemicals. They claim that the fumigation will ruin thousands of dollars' worth of goods. The sanitary authorities suspect yellow fever. Gov. Magoon has directed that the work proceed.

TRANSVAAL RACE CRISIS.

35 Indians and 18 Chinamen Arrested—Some Prominent Merchants.

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 14.—The racial crisis was rendered more acute to-day by the arrest of thirty-five more Indians, including the chairman and the treasurer of the British-Indian Association and chairman and secretary of the Islamic Society, who are prominent merchants.

Fifteen Chinamen were also arrested, including the principal members of the committee of the Chinese Association. The chairman of the Chinese Association has been sentenced to two months imprisonment for not complying with an official notice to quit the country. Two Indians have been condemned to similar punishment for the same offence.

HUGHES CLUB IN TENNESSEE.

Movement to Boost the Governor's Presidential Boom in the South.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 14.—Pursuant to a signed call a Hughes club was organized here to-night. The attendance was not large on account of bad weather, but an enrollment of 548 was secured.

State Senator V. A. Huffaker was elected president. John Ball Brown, formerly of the Post Office Department at Washington, vice-president, and Monroe Johnson of the Knoxville County Court secretary.

Resolutions endorsing the President and national platform were adopted. They also stated that Charles Evans Hughes has proved his availability by being elected governor of the Empire State when the entire remainder of the Republican ticket went down in defeat.

A committee was named to organize a Tennessee and Kentucky tour to open headquarters at once. Many of the members of the club are close friends of Congressman W. W. Hale.

HUGHES INDORSED IN BUFFALO.

Erle County Committee Recommends Delegates Favorable to His Nomination.

BUFFALO, Jan. 14.—At an annual meeting of the Republican county committee, held here at noon to-day, resolutions were adopted as follows:

"We commend and endorse the administration of Charles E. Hughes, Governor of the State of New York, for his high public utilities is a wise one and meets with the approval of the citizens of the State of New York."

"We believe that the sentiment in this community is favorable to his nomination to the Presidency, and we recommend that delegates be chosen to attend the next national convention of the Republican party who will be favorable to his nomination."

John McGrath Gets \$10,000 for Loss of Leg.

A jury in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn yesterday awarded John McGrath a verdict for \$10,000 in his suit against the Nassau Electric Railway Company for personal injuries. In July, 1905, while riding on the running board of an open trolley car Mr. McGrath was accidentally knocked off by the car and his leg was crushed by the wheels that it had to be amputated.

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